[24th March 1952

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) A representation has been received from the South India Teachers' Union communicating the recommendations of the Conference of the Presidents and Secretaries of the District Teachers' Guilds on the subject.

" (b) A copy[a] of the representation is laid on the Table of the House.

" (c) A general revision of the scales of pay in respect of all categories of teachers is not feasible, in view of the present financial stringency. However, the question of revising the scale of pay of the secondary grade teachers has been engaging the attention of the Government and a decision is expected to be taken as early as possible.

" (d) The scales of pay were only revised in 1947.

" (e) The cost of living index number for September 1951 was 340·3 as compared with 271·7, the average cost of living index number for 1947 in Madras City."

Report of the expert committee on radium needles.

* 106 Q.—Dr. P. V. CHERIYAN : With reference to the Press Note No. 140 issued by the Government on 7th September 1951 stating that an expert committee considered the question and advised the Hon. Minister that the radium needles are better than radon seeds in the treatment of cancer, will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the members of the committee and whether he will be pleased to place a copy of the committee's report on the table of the House;

(b) whether the Government called for quotations for a radon plant; and

(c) if the answer to clause (b) is in the affirmative, what the cost of restarting the radon manufacture would have been?

The Hon. Sri C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" (a) The conference of experts which met on 3rd August 1949 to advise Government on how best to utilize the available radium for the patients was composed of Dr. Rajan, the then Minister of Public Health, the Joint Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, the Surgeon-General, the Superintendents of all the City State Hospitals, the Director, Barnard Institute of Radiology, Col. Pandalai, and Drs. Guruswami and Rama Rau. There was a free discussion on the policy of Government to decentralize Radium treatment and hence there was nothing by way of a detailed report.

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 245–248 infra.

24th March 1952]

"(b) The Director, Barnard Institute of Radiology had some correspondence with some American firms and found it difficult to get a suitable radon plant.

"(c) The cost of the plant together with the calibration apparatus, remote control, etc., would have been a little over Rs. 40,000."

DR. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister how he can call it a conference of experts when there was only one person in the conference who can legitimately be called an expert? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" I do not know whether they were all experts but since they were all heads of institutions they were considered experts."

DR. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" Whatever may be the view of the heads of these institutions, the question of treatment through radium or radon is very important and a mistake has been made in sticking to the treatment with radium and not radon."

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" I think the conference was helped in the discussion of the question by the Director of the Barnard Institute of Radiology and he was there as an expert."

DR. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" My information is that the question of radium treatment was taken up and not radon treatment at all."

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" The other day while answering a similar question, I pointed out that expert opinion was that radium treatment was better than radon treatment."

DR. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" Since it is a disputed point I have been bringing up this question in the House several times, I think it is high time that Government appointed a special committee to go into the question because a large amount of money has been unnecessarily wasted on radium, which could much better be utilized for treatment by radon."

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" If the hon. Member could give his considered opinion, I will place the matter before an expert committee and then decide what to do in the matter."

DR. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" I have taken considerable trouble to find out the advantages of radon treatment and I have not the slightest doubt that radon treatment is better, more useful to hospitals and is also cheaper? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" I will place the information before the Director of Radiology."